

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 06465 01 OF 02 211440Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----211455Z 044866 /42
O 211437Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2891

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06465

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: PRELIMINARY FCO REACTIONS TO
SECRETARY'S LETTER

REFERENCE: STATE 089720

1. EMBASSY OFFICER REVIEWED THE SECRETARY'S LETTER
APRIL 21 WITH DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY JOHNNY GRAHAM,
WHO HAD ASSEMBLED MANSFIELD, GRENNAN, AND LAVER TO GO
OVER ITS CONTENTS. THOSE PRESENT OFFERED SEVERAL
COMMENTS.

2. GRAHAM SAID HE BELIEVED OWEN REMAINS ANXIOUS TO MAKE
AN EARLY ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE CONFERENCE AND HAD
TENTATIVELY BEEN PLANNING TO USE THE RHODESIA SANCTIONS
DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT NEXT THURSDAY AS THE OCCASION. THE
FOREIGN SECRETARY FEELS STRONGLY THAT MOMENTUM MUST BE
MAINTAINED, GRAHAM EXPLAINED. EMBASSY OFFICER STRESSED
THAT WE WOULD NOT WANT AN ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT A CONFERENCE
UNTIL WE HAD HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH THE
BRITISH AND COULD AGREE THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT WAS THE NEXT
BEST STEP. AS THE DISCUSSION ENSUED, IT EMERGED THAT
OWEN MIGHT BE SATISFIED WITH A STATEMENT WHICH DID NOT
ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF A CONFERENCE BUT WHICH SAID
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 06465 01 OF 02 211440Z

THAT HMG, ON THE BASIS OF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY'S TRIP,
WAS NOW PREPARING TO BEGIN TECHNICAL BILATERAL CONSULTA-
TIONS WITH THE INTERESTED PARTIES. THE STATEMENT MIGHT
ALSO REFER TO ON-GOING DISCUSSIONS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS.
EMBASSY OFFICER SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS ALTERNATIVE TO
WASHINGTON AND THAT WE MIGHT HAVE REACTIONS TO OFFER
DURING OWEN'S TALK WITH SPIERS AND AARON TOMORROW.

3. GRAHAM WELCOMED THE OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH US EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON (PARA L REFTEL). HE SUGGESTED SCHAUFELLE OR PERHAPS HABIB MIGHT WANT TO COME TO LONDON TUESDAY OR WEDNESDAY NEXT WEEK (OWEN WILL BE IN THE MIDDLE EAST FROM APRIL 24 THROUGH THE EVENING OF APRIL 27). ALTERNATIVELY, GRAHAM WOULD BE PREPARED TO LEAVE HERE MONDAY EVENING FOR A DAY OF CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, RETURNING TO LONDON IN TIME TO BRIEF THE FOREIGN SECRETARY. ACTION REQUESTED: WHICH ALTERNATIVE DO WE PREFER?

4. DESPITE THE PATRIOTIC FRONT PRESS STATEMENT IN LUSAKA APRIL 19, GRAHAM QUESTIONED WHETHER MUGABE AND NKOMO AS WELL AS NYERERE WILL INSIST ON NO DIRECT U.S. ROLE IN A CONFERENCE (PARA E REFTEL). GRENNAN QUICKLY POINTED OUT THAT US PARTICIPATION IS THE SINE QUA NON OF OWEN'S BRIEF, AND THAT WITHOUT AN AMERICAN ROLE THERE WOULD SIMPLY BE NO CONFERENCE. HE SAID THAT OWEN HAD ALSO EMPHASIZED TO ALL HE HAD MET IN AFRICA THAT HMG WOULD DECIDE HOW TO ARRANGE A CONFERENCE AND WOULD ACCEPT

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 06465 02 OF 02 211437Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----211455Z 044834 /42

O 211437Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2892

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06465

EXDIS

NO PRECONDITIONS FROM ANY PARTY. THE PATRIOTIC FRONT MUST UNDERSTAND THAT NO-AMERICA MEANS NO-CONFERENCE.

5. GRAHAM SAID THE OBJECT OF A LIAISON OFFICE IN SALISBURY (PARA H, REFTEL) WOULD NOT BE "FOR THE PURPOSE OF TESTING SENTIMENT" IN RHODESIA BUT RATHER TO BEGIN TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS ON DEVELOPING A CONSTITUTION.

IN ANY EVENT, HE SAID, THINKING HERE IS NOW MOVING AWAY FROM DESIGNATING SALISBURY AS THE CENTER OF OPERATIONS. INSTEAD, GRAHAM ENVISAGES HEADING AN OFFICE LOCATED IN LUSAKA "WITH SOMETHING LIKE A BRANCH IN SALISBURY." IT WOULD BE LESS IMPORTANT. THEREFORE, TO HAVE AN AMERICAN ATTACHED TO THE SALISBURY OFFICE. PERHAPS WE MIGHT INSTEAD CONSIDER ATTACHING AN AMERICAN TO OUR EMBASSY IN LUSAKA FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAINTAINING CLOSE CONTACT WITH THE GRAHAM GROUP.

6. COMMENT: GRAHAM AND HIS COLLEAGUES MIGHT BE INCLINED TO APPROACH NEXT STEPS ON RHODESIA IN A MORE CAUTIOUS AND SYSTEMATIC FASHION, BUT THEY ARE CLEARLY UNDER PRESSURE FROM OWEN TO GET SOMETHING MOVING SOON. OWEN IS ESPECIALLY ATTACHED TO MAKING SOME KIND OF ANNOUNCEMENT NEXT THURSDAY. THE SECRETARY'S LETTER SEEMS FOR THE MOMENT TO BLOCK THIS POSSIBILITY, AND ONE HAD THE IMPRESSION THAT GRAHAM SAW THE LETTER AS AN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LONDON 06465 02 OF 02 211437Z

AMERICAN HESITATION IN THE RHODESIA PROCESS.

SPIERS

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LONDON06465
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-1174
Format: TEL
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770434/aaaabcys.tel
Line Count: 143
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f2f0b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 89720
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2739610
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA: PRELIMINARY FCO REACTIONS TO SECRETARY'S LETTER
TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f2f0b0a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009